

REMARKS

A.) Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants believe the Examiner intended to indicate that claim 9, not 8, would be allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify this point in the next Office Action. Though the Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the Applicants believe these claims are patentable without amending them as suggested by the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

B.) The Section 103 Rejections Based on Young

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 6, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,719,868 to Young. Applicants disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Each of the claims of the present invention includes, among other things, the feature of a node that uses at least one negotiated, predefined sequence to assign link resources (e.g., wavelengths, frequencies), where the negotiations occur over a link between the node and a neighboring node using a link between the nodes. The negotiations help avoid contention between the nodes when a connection request received by one of the nodes requires a certain link resource. Young does not disclose or suggest the use of such a link between nodes to complete negotiations. Instead, Young, appears to allow its wireless nodes to negotiate (if it can even be described as such) by allowing the nodes to broadcast (i.e., "announce") the frequencies each node is using to its neighboring nodes. Such "announcements" are not broadcast over links that are created between nodes. Rather than create a link between

nodes, one node simply broadcasts the frequencies it is using to any node within its broadcast range.

In sum, it is Applicants' belief that the subject matter of claims 1, 2, 6, 9 and 12 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present application was filed based on the disclosures in Young. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of these claims as well as claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13.

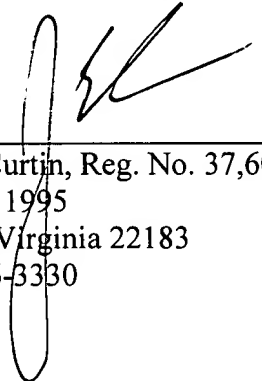
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3777 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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